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Ruth Suckow

THE ODD ONES

I like best those crotchety ones
That follow their own way
In whimsical oblivion
Of what the neighbors say.
They grow more rare as they grow old,
Their lives show in their faces—
In little slants and twisted lines;
Like trees in lonely places.

GRAMPA SCHULER

Grampa Schuler, when he was young,
Had a crest of hair, and shining eyes.
He wore red-flowered waistcoats,
Wild Byronic ties.
The whole land of Germany
Wasn't wide enough!—
He ran away one night, when winter
Seas were fierce and rough.
He has a sleek farm here
With already a settled air.
He's patriarchal, with his sons
And daughters round him everywhere,
His son's son Jim has fiery eyes—
He wants to go where the land is new!
Grampa bitterly wonders: "What are
Young fools coming to!"

Ruth Suckow